



Press Statement

13 May 2011

**CLARIFICATORY STATEMENT ON REPORTS ABOUT A DIALOGUE BETWEEN
THE MAKATI BUSINESS CLUB AND THE MORO ISLAMIC LIBERATION FRONT**

The Makati Business Club (MBC) wishes to respond to recent media reports regarding a dialogue that allegedly took place between MBC and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF). We would like to publicly state that no such formal dialogue, with official representation from both MBC and the MILF, has taken place.

The news reports may actually be pertaining to a dialogue with the MILF panel of negotiators held on May 6 that was organized by the Mindanao Business Council (MinBC), Asian Institute of Management (AIM), and International Alert (IA), and participated in by various business and civil society groups. MBC did not initiate or organize this activity.

Nevertheless, we highly commend the efforts of the Mindanao Business Council and its partners in creating avenues for multisectoral stakeholders' discussions concerning the Mindanao peace talks. We hope that the Philippine government and the MILF will soon be able to arrive at a sound resolution of the issues standing in the way of attaining long-lasting peace and prosperity in the conflict-ridden areas of Mindanao.

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